

Congressman Petitioned U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Provide Critical Dollars for Shelter, Counseling, and Job Training for County's Homeless Population

Washington, DC - In an effort to help provide shelter, counseling, and other critical services to Broome County's homeless population, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has responded to his requests and agreed to restore \$447,269 in federal aid for the Broome County Homeless Coalition. Last year, HUD denied the coalition its annual allocation of funding because the group missed the application deadline due to computer difficulties.

"These federal funds will help ensure that homeless individuals and families in Broome County have a roof over their head, meals to eat, and access to counseling services that will help them get back on their feet so they can live independently," Hinchey said. "I am very pleased that HUD recognized it shouldn't penalize homeless people in Broome County because of a technological problem experienced by the organization that made the funding request. This decision to release federal funding will provide a helping hand and make a real impact for dozens of homeless people in Broome County."

HUD announced that the aid for Broome County in 2009 will be allocated through three separate accounts:

- **\$188,112 -- Fairview Recovery Services Renewal for Shelter Plus Care:** This will fund rental subsidies for 25 apartments for homeless individuals and families in Broome County. The funding will help up to 40 people over the course of the year.
- **\$152,076 -- YWCA Outreach and Retention:** Funds permanent supportive housing for 16 apartments for homeless women. Services include one full time social worker, case manager, and vocation education specialist. This will benefit 20-25 people in the year ahead.
- **\$107,081 -- YWCA Intensive Independent Living Program:** Provides permanent supportive housing for four apartments for homeless women and their children. Funds a full time social worker, care manager and resident assistant. This initiative will help 8-11 people this year.

Upon learning in November 2008 that HUD was denying federal aid to the Broome County Homeless Coalition, Hinchey wrote a letter to then-HUD Secretary Steve Preston, urging him to provide the federal funds. The congressman and his staff repeatedly followed up with local HUD officials to encourage them to release the critical aid.

The Broome County Homeless Coalition serves as an umbrella organization for the multiple groups that will administer the funds.